



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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6 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

The announced composition of the Soviet delegation which left Moscow for Hanoi today suggests that the Soviets will be engaged in a high-level review of their material assistance to North Vietnam along with any possible political talks.

Two Soviet figures of particular interest are going with Shelepin. One is D. F. Ustinov, who for the past 25 years has played key parts in the direction of Soviet defense industry. [REDACTED]

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Within the past two weeks, possibly in anticipation of this trip, he made a special effort to arrange talks with top aircraft and missile experts in Moscow.

A second figure is Colonel General Vladimir Tolubko, first deputy commander of the Soviet Strategic Missile Forces. Tolubko is an expert on missiles generally, and is believed to have played a role in introducing surface-to-air missiles into East Germany in the 1950s.

Officials dealing with political matters have been included in the party, as they normally are on such missions, but they are of lower level than those who accompanied Kosygin to Hanoi last February.

Further analysis of the possible significance of the inclusion of Ustinov and General Tolubko in this delegation is under way.

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2. North Vietnam

Diplomats in Hanoi have heard rumors that a meeting of the North Vietnamese Communist Party's central committee got under way late last month. A check on the whereabouts of prominent North Vietnamese during this period tends to support the rumors.

US peace initiatives would certainly be an important subject for discussion by the central committee, but would not necessarily be the reason for calling the meeting. The central committee in fact met during December in both 1963 and 1964. Communiqués from these sessions did not appear before mid or late January.

3. Communist China

Peking today issued its most authoritative commentary yet on the US peace effort. A People's Daily article by "Observer" critiques the US 14 points one by one, concluding that they contain nothing and are a "gigantic fraud."

Like Hanoi's recent propaganda, People's Daily underscores that US troops must withdraw from Vietnam as a "prerequisite" for a political settlement.

4. Sino-Soviet Dispute

As expected the Tri-Continent Conference in Havana is shaping up as a major Sino-Soviet battleground.

Moscow's minions have proposed that a single tri-continent organization be set up to replace the present Afro-Asian solidarity organization which the Chinese once dominated. The Soviets may have the votes to ram this through.

The delegate from Peking responded with still another slashing attack on the Soviets, whom he charged are in league with the "American imperialists."

5. Communist China

Satellite photography []

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[] shows considerable construction activity at the Shuangchengtzu missile test center in northwestern China.

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Work is under way at a surface-to-surface missile launch area which has stood abandoned since Soviet aid and technicians were withdrawn in mid-1960. Construction is not yet sufficiently advanced to identify the type of launch facility being built. A new instrumentation site being put in 550 miles down-range may be related.

In addition, new instrumentation is being added to the surface-to-air missile test areas.

All of this suggests that Peking may be getting ready to test fire both a new surface-to-surface and a new surface-to-air missile.

6. Soviet Union

The Soviets may be about ready to put their two newest intercontinental ballistic missiles into operational sites.

In the last quarter of 1965, the SS-9 was test fired eleven times to various ranges and with various warheads. All tests were successful and the missile should be ready for deployment.

The other new missile--the SS-11--was also fired eleven times in the same period. Despite the fact that only seven of these shots were successes, []

[] indicating a Moscow decision to deploy it faster than the test records seem to justify.

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We believe that the SS-9 is destined to go into the large single silos, and the SS-11 the small. []

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7. Dominican Republic

President Garcia Godoy insists that he has no choice but to remove and send abroad three of the four military chiefs. He wants support from the US and the Inter-American Peace Force to effect the removal.

The entire left has united in a campaign to force the chiefs' ouster. The left seems quite willing to paralyze the nation with protests, strikes, and street demonstrations to achieve its end.

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8. Bolivia

So far there are no reports of disturbances in any part of the country in the wake of Barrientos' resignation and departure for a short cure in Switzerland.

9. Rhodesia

Prime Minister Wilson may be overreaching himself in his efforts to reassure the Africans he means business on Rhodesia. He has come dangerously close to tying Britain in Zambian eyes to a timetable for bringing down Smith which may prove difficult to keep to.

Since Rhodesia's relatively stronger economy could well outlast Zambia's more narrowly based one, Kaunda may yet come to feel let down and thus more susceptible to radical African counsel.

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